

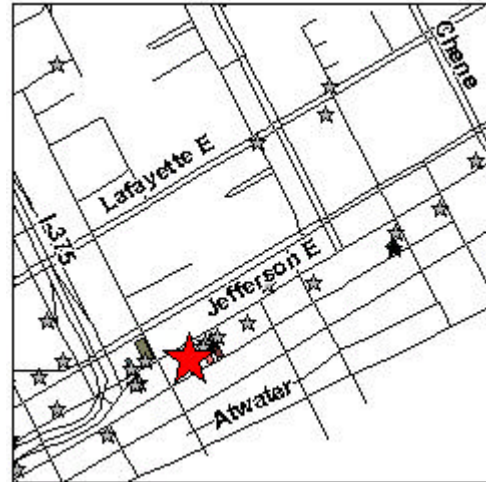
Charles Trowbridge House

1380 East Jefferson

Local	v	3/8/82
State	v	7/26/74
State Marker		
National	v	5/28/76



Trowbridge House



Historic overview:

The Trowbridge House was built by and was the residence for over 50 years of a man whose career paralleled the transformation of Detroit from a small frontier community into a thriving commercial and industrial center. Charles Trowbridge began his career in Michigan as a Deputy United States Marshall in 1819. He was an explorer, politician, and ethnographer of Native American cultures. By the time he died, he had been successful in banking, town building and railroads. His house is believed to be the oldest residence in Detroit.

Trowbridge had an exciting life, serving on the expedition that officially explored and charted the area between the Great Lakes and the headwaters of the Mississippi. He assisted in recording the 1820 census, and became the official interpreter between the government and the Indians in the Michigan Territory. He was as an alderman of Detroit, and during the cholera epidemic of 1834 he served as Mayor, but later resigned that position. In addition to sitting on the boards of several charitable organizations, Trowbridge also served on the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan.

Built in 1826, at a cost of \$2,500, the Trowbridge House was considered to be the finest frame house in the territory when it was completed. The River Road ran behind the house, which led from town to farm. Original access may well have been from what is now the rear. These houses were often very similar front and back, with entrances at both ends of a central hallway. Like many Jefferson Avenue homes, the Trowbridge House was converted to a rooming house in 1936; it was converted back to a single-family dwelling and sold out of the Trowbridge family in 1942.

